SECOND CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS (2nd Bill)/1st Daschle Substitute

SUBJECT: Second Continuing Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 . . . H.J. Res. 122. Dole motion to table the Daschle substitute amendment No. 3055.

ACTION: MOTION TO TABLE AGREED TO, 53-46

SYNOPSIS: As introduced, H.J. Res. 122, the Second Continuing Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 1996 (the President vetoed an earlier second continuing appropriations bill; see vote No. 567), will provide limited funding through December 5, 1995 for Federal programs that have not yet had fiscal year (FY) 1996 appropriations enacted for them. The rate of appropriations will be the lowest of the current rate or the Senate- or House-passed rate. Programs and activities terminated or significantly reduced will be maintained at a rate not to exceed 60 percent of the current rate. Rates will be adjustable further to prevent reductions in force. Section 301 will commit the President and the Congress to achieving a unified balanced budget by 2002, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO).

The Daschle substitute amendment would extend the expiration date of the first continuing resolution until December 22, 1995. Debate was limited by unanimous consent. Following debate, Senator Dole moved to table the Daschle amendment. Generally, those favoring the motion to table opposed the amendment; those opposing the motion to table favored the amendment.

Those favoring the motion to table contended:

The Republican plan to balance the budget in 7 years will slow the rate of growth in Federal spending. It is an honest plan, as scored by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO). Over the years we have heard Democrats regularly sign the praises of CBO scoring, insisting that it should be the only judge of proposed budgets. President Clinton himself has said that he thinks that only CBO numbers should be used. Most Democrats pay at least lip-service to the need to balance the budget, and the vast majority of Americans strongly support bringing the budget into balance. These facts make it surprising that the President and Democratic Members of Congress have resisted this continuing resolution so forcefully. It has but two parts: it provides continuing

(See other side)

	YEAS (53)		NAYS (46)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans Democrats		Republicans	Democrats (46 or 100%)		Republicans Democrats		
(53 or 100%) (0 or 0%)		(0 or 0%)			(0)	(0)	
Abraham Ashcroft Bennett Bond Brown Burns Campbell Chafee Coats Cochran Cohen Coverdell Craig D'Amato DeWine Dole Domenici Faircloth Frist Gorton Gramm Grams Grassley Gregg Hatch Hatfield	Helms Hutchison Inhofe Jeffords Kassebaum Kempthorne Kyl Lott Lugar Mack McCain McConnell Murkowski Nickles Pressler Roth Santorum Shelby Simpson Smith Snowe Specter Stevens Thomas Thompson Thurmond Warner			Akaka Baucus Biden Bingaman Boxer Bradley Breaux Bryan Bumpers Byrd Conrad Daschle Dodd Dorgan Exon Feingold Feinstein Ford Glenn Graham Harkin Heflin Hollings	Inouye Johnston Kennedy Kerrey Kerry Kohl Lautenberg Leahy Levin Lieberman Mikulski Moseley-Braun Moynihan Murray Nunn Pell Pryor Reid Robb Rockefeller Sarbanes Simon Wellstone	EXPLANAT 1—Official I 2—Necessar 3—Illness 4—Other SYMBOLS: AY—Annou AN—Annou PY—Paired PN—Paired	nced Yea nced Nay Yea

VOTE NO. 577 NOVEMBER 16, 1995

appropriations, and it states that the President and the Congress will commit to balancing the budget in 7 years using CBO scoring. This bill should not be even slightly objectionable. Nothing in the language says that Democrats have to accept the Republican budget. They are welcome and encouraged to come up with their own serious proposals. We prefer our plan, but we are willing to compromise. Why Democrats are so fearful of negotiating a compromise position is unfathomable. They have a strong negotiating position; President Clinton has the power to veto any bill. Some Senate Democrats have shown a willingness to negotiate, but President Clinton seems to want to try to pass all spending bills this year without stopping the uncontrolled growth in deficit spending. The purpose of this bill is to get the President to commit to balancing the budget. We want him to give his word that he is going to join us in working out not a Republican, not a Democratic, but an American solution to balance the budget. This demand is the only addition to either the debt limit bill or the continuing appropriations bill that the President vetoed that is non-negotiable. Everything is on the table on how to get the job done, but we will not accept not getting the job done. We therefore strongly urge our colleagues to table the Daschle amendment.

Those opposing the motion to table contended:

Since midnight on Monday hundreds of thousands of Federal workers have been furloughed, and millions of Americans who rely on the services they provide have been unable to receive those services. Those workers were furloughed because President Clinton rightly vetoed a continuing appropriations bill that was loaded down with offensive provisions, not the least of which was a huge premium increase for Medicare Part B. President Clinton also vetoed the debt limit extension bill because of offensive features that were added to that bill, but Republicans will not get future chances to blackmail the President on that score because he has started disinvesting Federal pension funds to stay under the debt limit. We are in this mess because Republicans have been slow in drafting and passing fiscal year 1996 appropriations bills. They are now trying to use their failure, both on the vetoed bill and on this bill, to blackmail the President. This particular bill, as drafted, will force the President either to give in to Republican demands to balance the budget in 7 years using CBO numbers or else accept a continued Government shutdown. Further, even if he accepts it, it will provide appropriations at a level drastically reduced below the amount needed. The Daschle substitute amendment would correct these problems by passing a clean bill that will simply extend appropriations. The Daschle amendment would put Federal workers back on the job and would make Federal services again available. We urge our colleagues to support this amendment.